

### **REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 2-22 are now present in the application. Claims 2-8 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-4 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 2-7 and 9-22 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, claims 2-4 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of their base claim 1, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 2-4 and their dependent claims 5-22 are in condition for allowance.

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 5-8 have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103**

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato, U.S. Patent No. 6,754,723. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Since claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 8 is redirected to allowable claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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